



Kumbhakarna

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INDIA BOOK HOUSE

KUMBHAKARNA



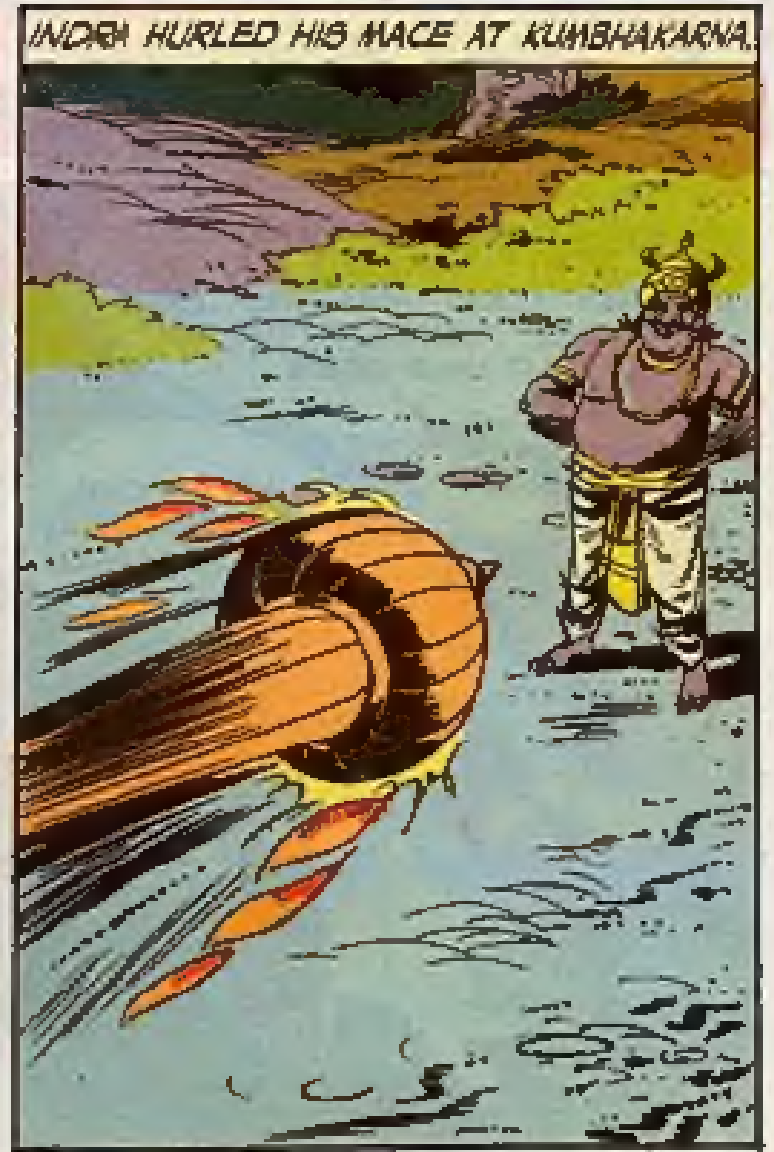
KUMBHAKARNA WAS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF RAVANA, THE TEN-HEADED RAKSHASA KING OF LANKA. HE WAS STRONG, BUT SAD TO SAY, HE WAS A BIG BULLY. HE LOVED TO FRIGHTEN AND HURT THOSE WHO WERE WEAKER THAN HIM.

RAVANA, DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE TODAY? I WALKED INTO THE DANDAKA FOREST AND FRIGHTENED THE SAGES THERE! HA! HA! HA! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEM RUN!

WELL DONE, KUMBHAKARNA! I AM PLEASED.

BUT WHAT KUMBHAKARNA HAD DONE MADE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER VIBHISHANA UNHAPPY.

KUMBHAKARNA, WHAT HARM HAVE THOSE SAGES DONE YOU? WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THEM ALONE?



BUT—



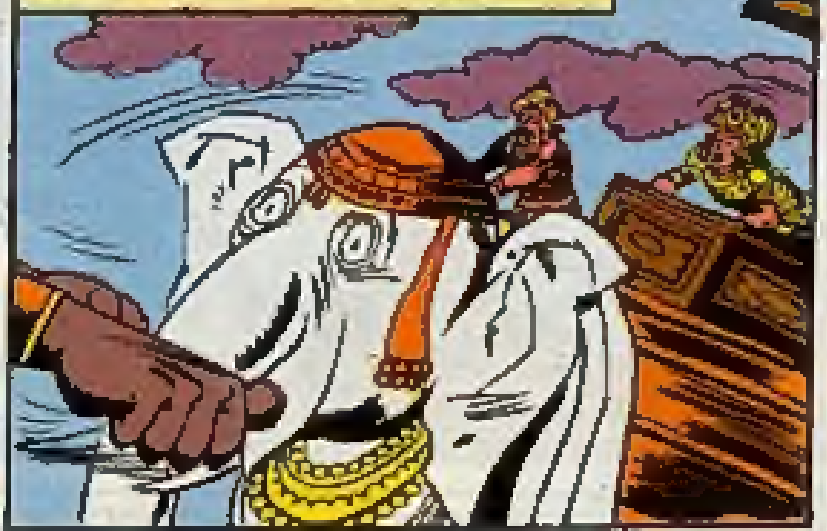
OH! NO! HE HAS
SWALLOWED
IT!



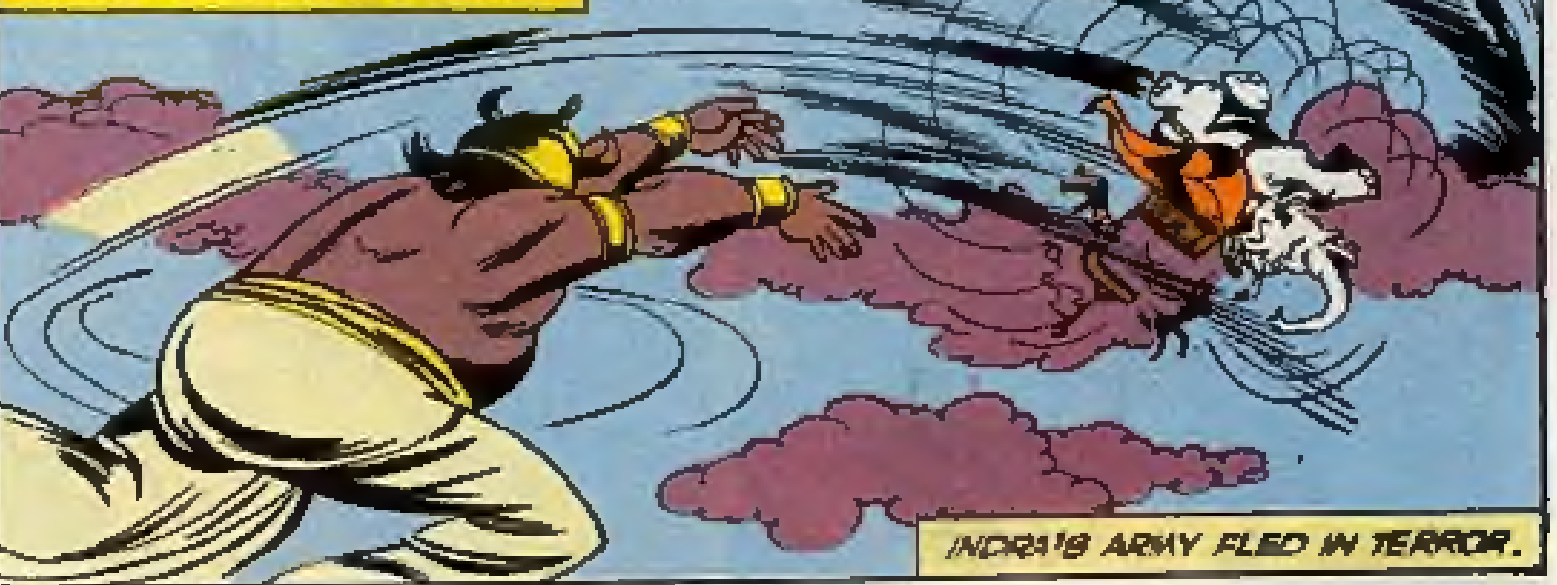
THEN KUMBHAKARNA LEAPT FORWARD...



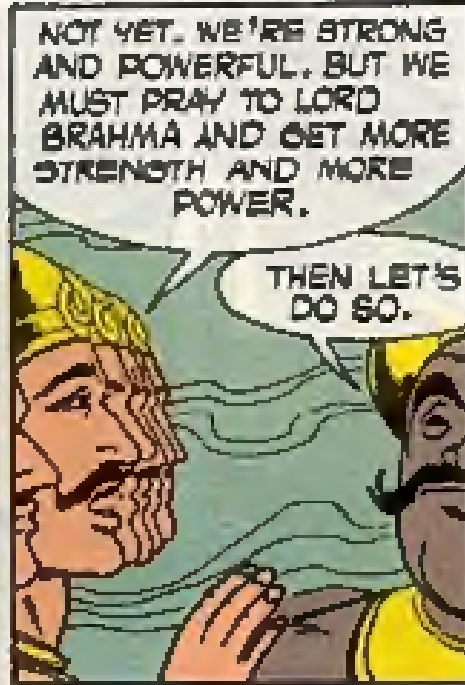
... CAUGHT HOLD OF INDRA'S
ELEPHANT BY ITS TUSKS...



... AND FLUNG IT FAR AWAY.



INDRA'S ARMY FLED IN TERROR.



WHEN INDRA HEARD THAT, HE WAS WORRIED.

BEFORE BRAHMA GIVES KUMBHAKARNA A BOON, I MUST DO SOMETHING.



HE WENT TO SARASWATI, THE GODDESS OF SPEECH.

O SARASWATI, ONLY YOU CAN SAVE US NOW.

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?



WHEN KUMBHAKARNA ASKS FOR A BOON, WILL YOU CAST A SPELL ON HIS TONGUE?

LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL MAKE HIM ASK FOR A FOOLISH BOON.



MEANWHILE VISHISHANA TOO HAD BEEN GIVEN A BOON. NOW IT WAS KUMBHAKARNA'S TURN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, KUMBHAKARNA?



BEFORE KUMBHAKARNA COULD SPEAK, SARASWATI CAST HER SPELL!



MY LORD, MY BROTHER DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS ASKING FOR. PLEASE TAKE BACK THE BOON.

I CANNOT TAKE BACK A BOON I HAVE GRANTED.



BUT IF KUMBHAKARNA SLEEPS ALL THE TIME AND NEVER WAKES UP, HIS ENEMIES WILL KILL HIM!



HAVE MERCY ON HIM, MY LORD.



...IF ANYONE WAKES HIM UP ON ANY OTHER DAY, HIS LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER.



THE NEXT MOMENT —

HE'S
FAST ASLEEP.
WE'LL HAVE TO
CARRY HIM
HOME.



THERE GOES
KUMBHAKARNA!
HE'S
SAFE!



RAVANA AND VISHISHANA TOOK
KUMBHAKARNA TO HIS PALACE AND
GENTLY LAID HIM ON HIS BED.

RAVANA, AREN'T
YOU SAD ABOUT
KUMBHAKARNA?

NOT REALLY. ON
THE DAYS HE WAKES
UP, HE WILL DO WHAT
OTHERS COULDN'T
IN A HUNDRED
YEARS.



BRAHMA'S BOON TO RAVANA ALSO CAME
TRUE. HE SOON BECAME THE MASTER
OF THE THREE WORLDS.

EVEN THE SUN CAN'T
SHINE WITHOUT MY
PERMISSION.

DON'T BOAST,
RAVANA. USE YOUR
STRENGTH FOR
THE GOOD OF
OTHERS. A GOOD
KING SHOULD BE
KIND, HUMBLE
AND JUST.



INSTEAD OF TAKING HIS BROTHER'S ADVICE, RAVANA CARRIED AWAY SITA, THE WIFE OF RAMA, THE PRINCE OF AYODHYA.



AT LANKA, RAVANA KEPT SITA IN HIS ASHOKA GARDEN WHICH WAS FAR AWAY FROM HIS PALACE. VIBHISHANA CAME TO SEE HIM.

WHAT YOU'VE DONE IS WRONG. SITA IS RAMA'S WIFE. TAKE HER BACK TO HIM.

DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO!



IF YOU DON'T TAKE SITA BACK TO RAMA, I'LL GO AWAY FROM LANKA.

AND I WON'T STOP YOU!



VIBHISHANA LEFT AND WENT TO RAMA WHO WAS MARCHING TOWARDS LANKA WITH A HUGE ARMY OF MONKEYS.

RAMA, YOU ARE GOOD. I'M ON YOUR SIDE. I'VE COME TO SERVE YOU, TO FIGHT FOR YOU.

WELCOME, VIBHISHANA.



WITH THE HELP OF THE MONKEYS,
RAMA BUILT A BRIDGE ACROSS THE
SEA TO LANKA HIS BROTHER
LAKSHMANA WAS VERY HAPPY.

WE'LL SOON DEFEAT
RAVANA AND RESCUE
SITA.

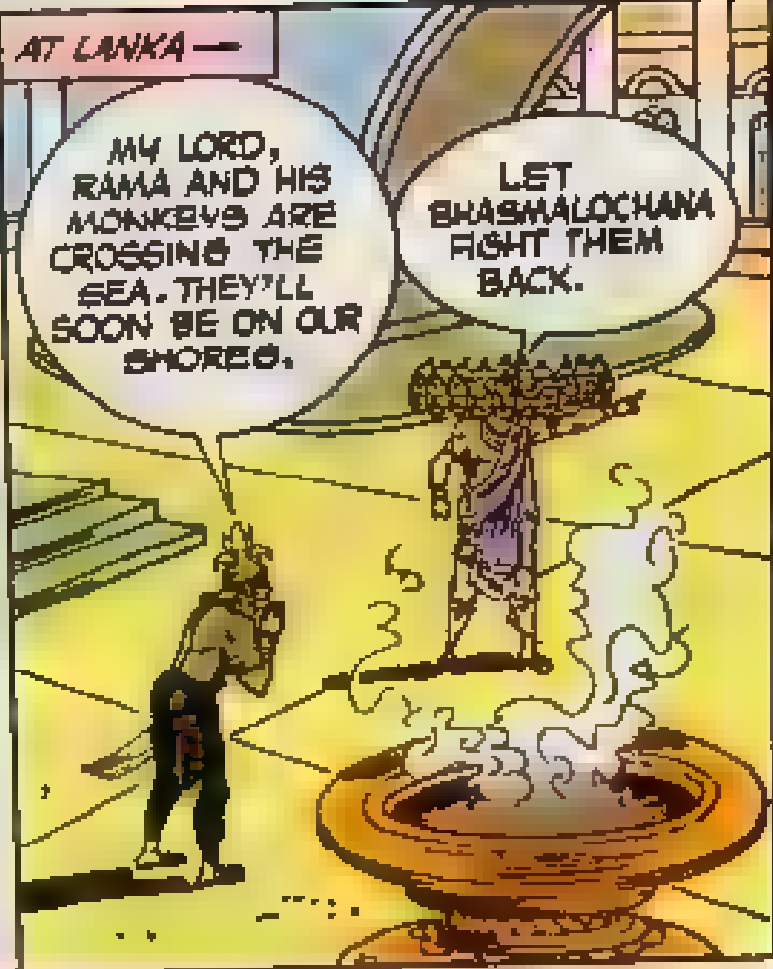
IT WILL BE
DIFFICULT, BUT
WE'LL SUCCEED.



AT LANKA —

MY LORD,
RAMA AND HIS
MONKEYS ARE
CROSSING THE
SEA. THEY'LL
SOON BE ON OUR
SHORES.

LET
BHASMALACHANA
FIGHT THEM
BACK.



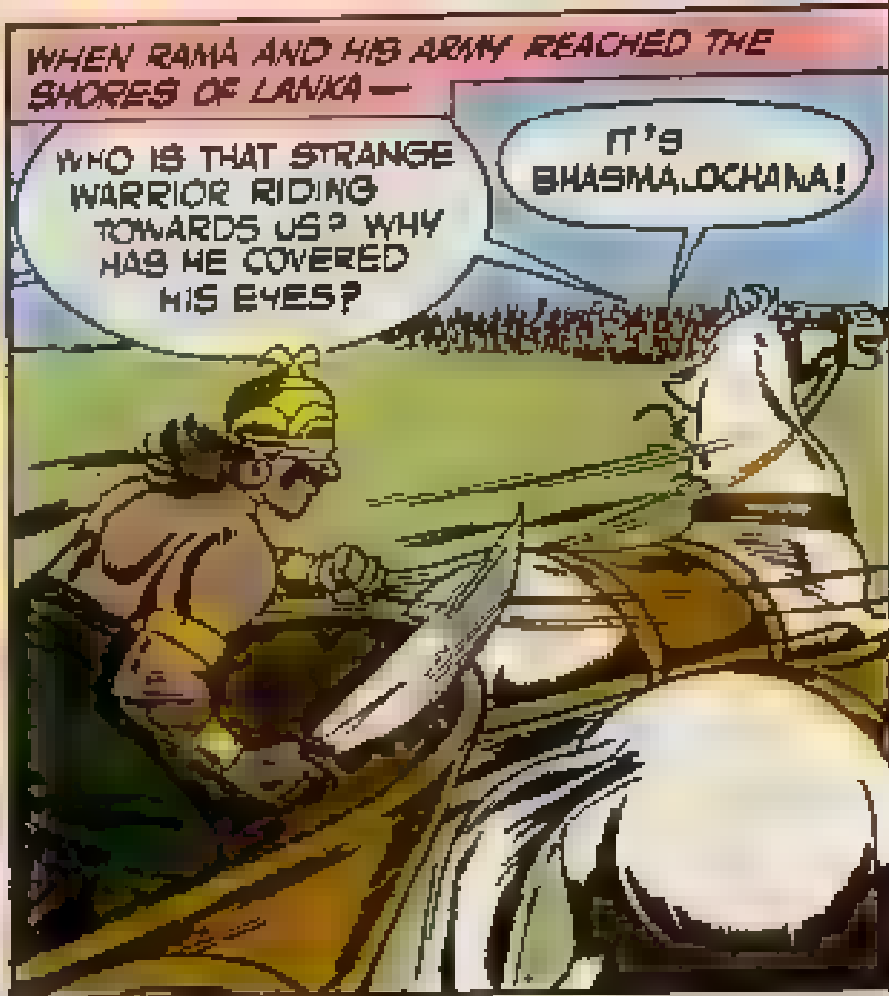
WITH
ONE LOOK,
HE'LL DESTROY
ALL OF
THEM.

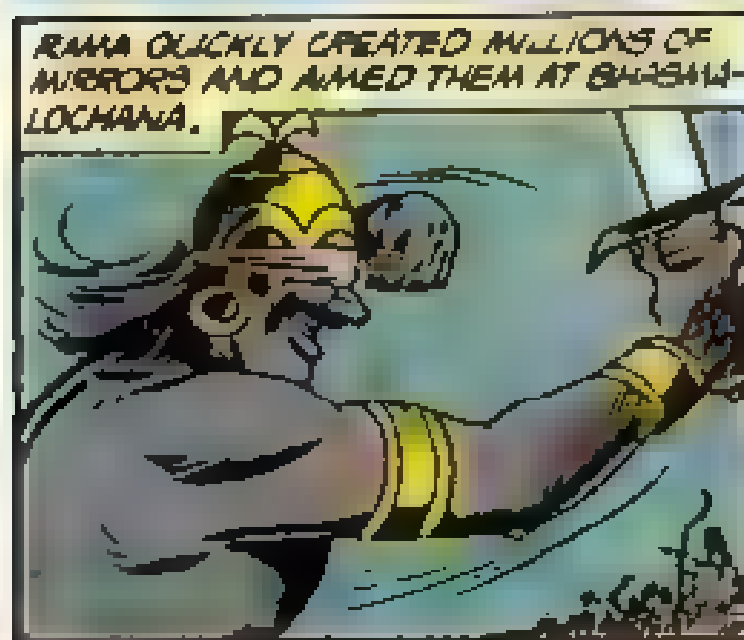
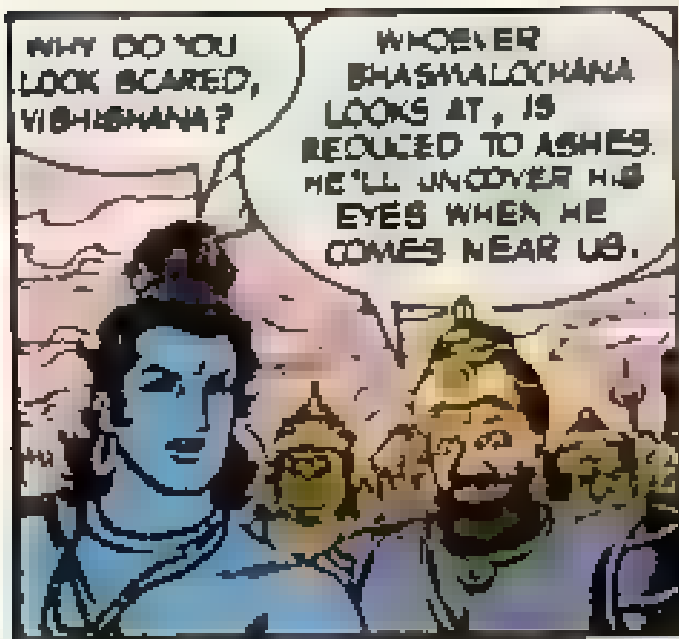


WHEN RAMA AND HIS ARMY REACHED THE
SHORES OF LANKA —

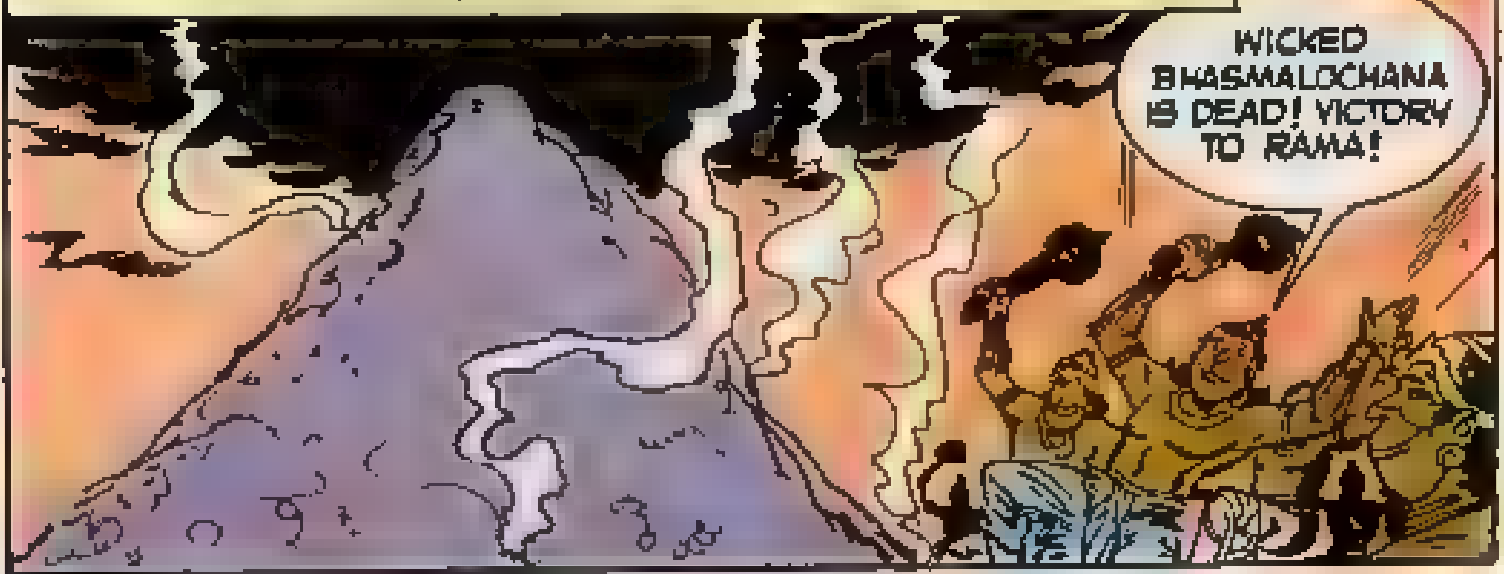
WHO IS THAT STRANGE
WARRIOR RIDING
TOWARDS US? WHY
HAS HE COVERED
HIS EYES?

IT'S
BHASMALACHANA!





AND THE NEXT MOMENT, BHASMALACHANA WAS BURNT TO ASHES.



AFTER THAT, MANY RAKSHASAS CAME TO FIGHT RAMA. BUT ALL OF THEM WERE KILLED BY HIM AT LAST RAVANA HIMSELF CAME.

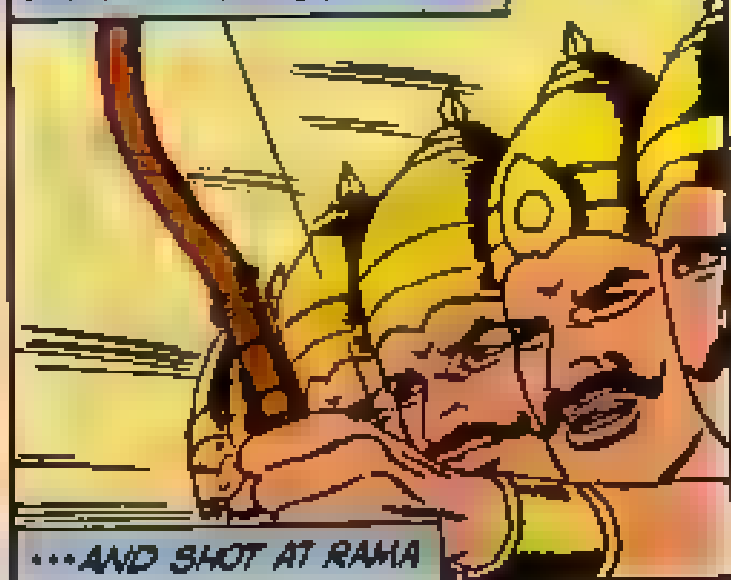
RAVANA, GET READY TO DIE. NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU!



RIDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF HANUMAN, THE MIGHTY MONKEY-WARRIOR, RAMA LET FLY HIS ARROWS.

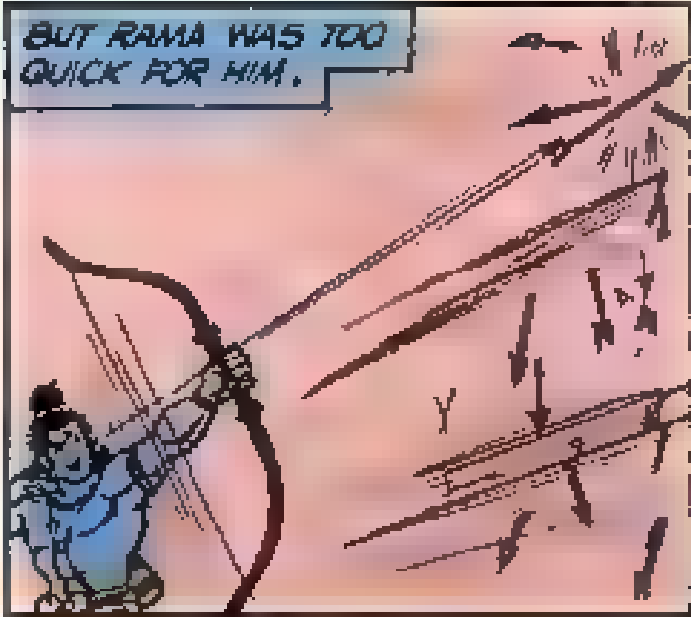


RAVANA TOO TOOK AIM...

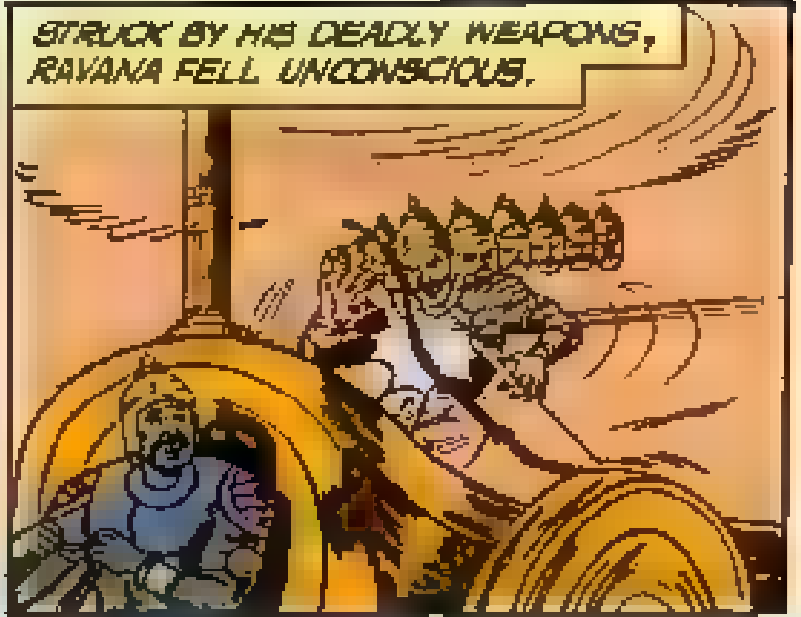


...AND SHOT AT RAMA

BUT RAMA WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM.

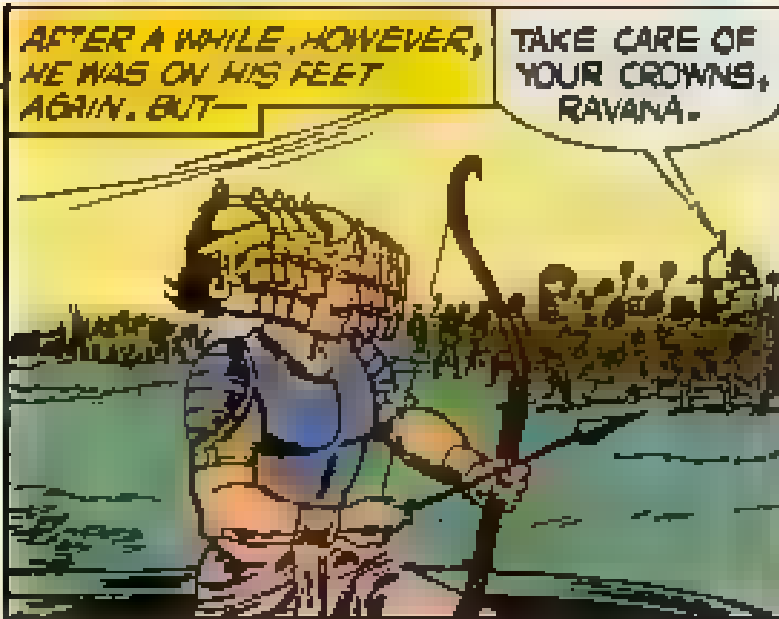


STRUCK BY HIS DEADLY WEAPONS, RAVANA FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

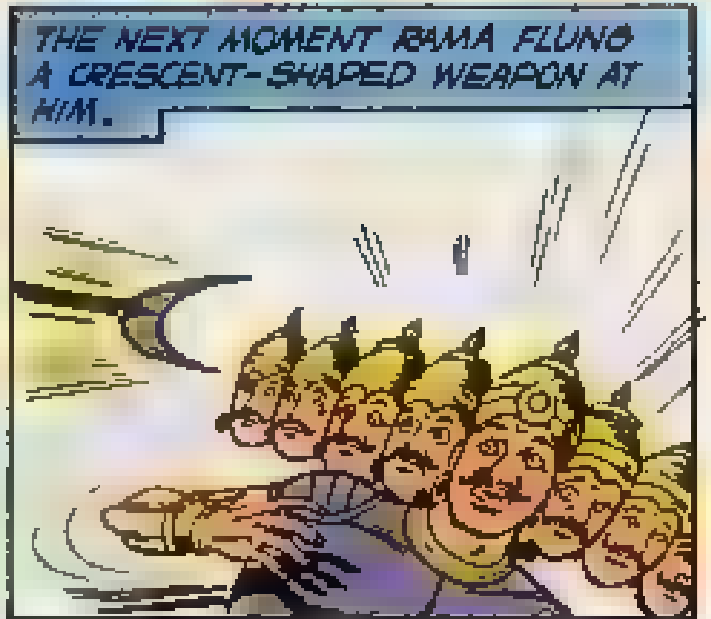


AFTER A WHILE, HOWEVER, HE WAS ON HIS FEET AGAIN. BUT—

TAKE CARE OF YOUR CROWNS, RAVANA.

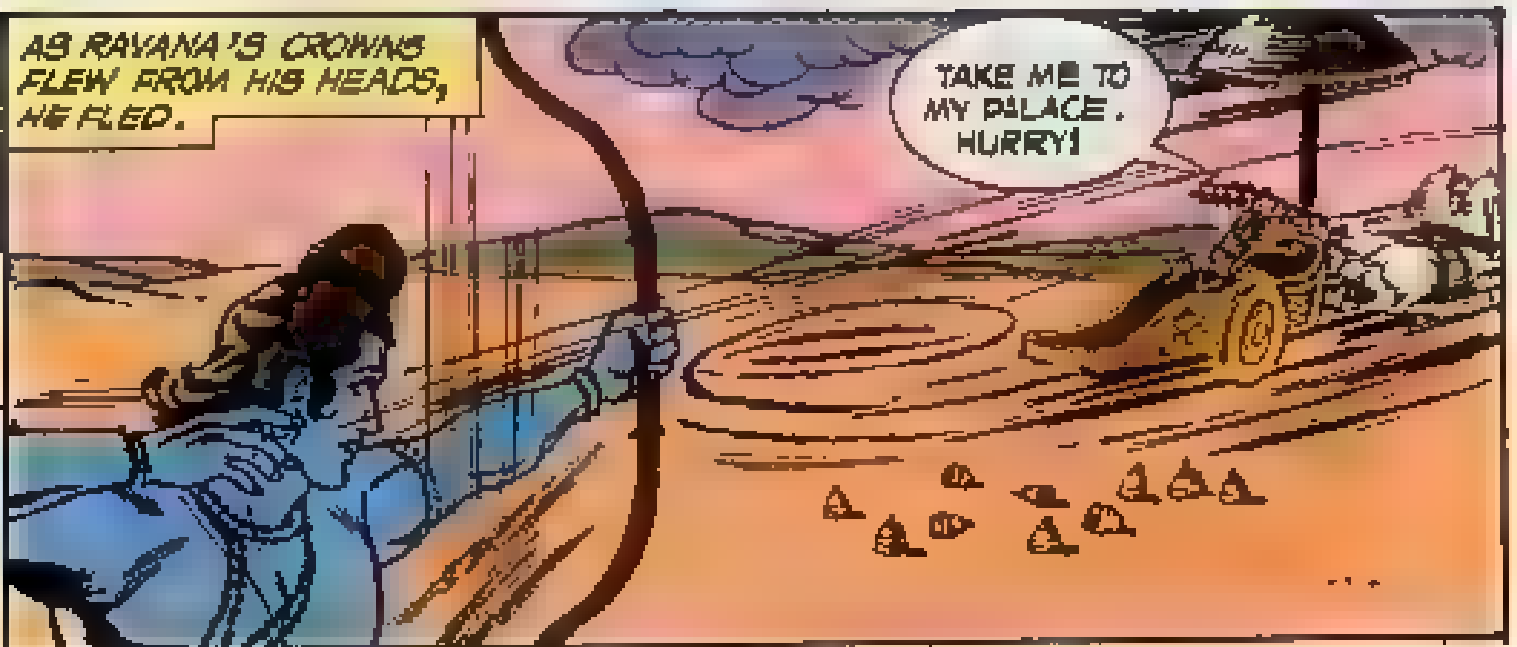


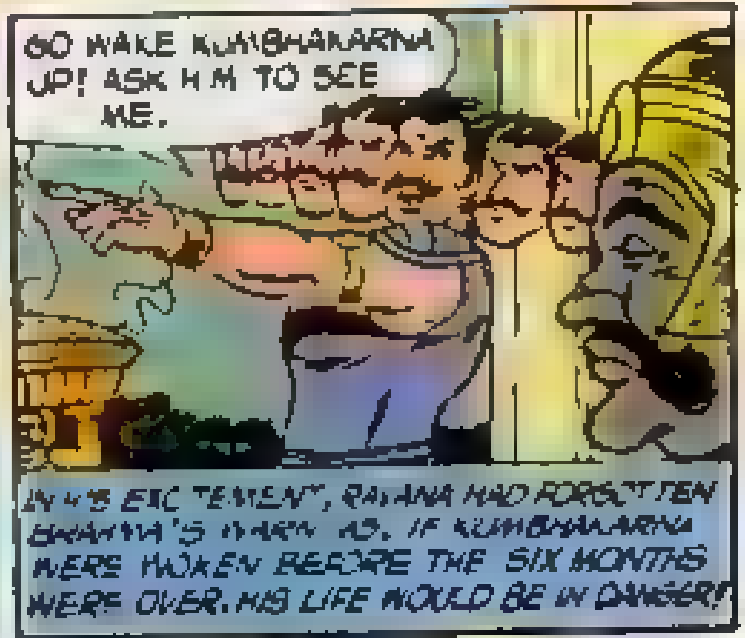
THE NEXT MOMENT RAMA FLUNG A CRESCENT-SHAPED WEAPON AT HIM.



AS RAVANA'S CROWNS FLEW FROM HIS HEADS, HE FLED.

TAKE ME TO MY PALACE. HURRY!





KUMBHAKARNA WAS FAST ASLEEP,
AS HE BREATHED OUT...



.... THE RAKSHASAS WERE SWEEPED OFF THEIR
FEET...



...AND AS HE BREATHED IN, THEY WERE PULLED TOWARDS HIS NOSTRILS.



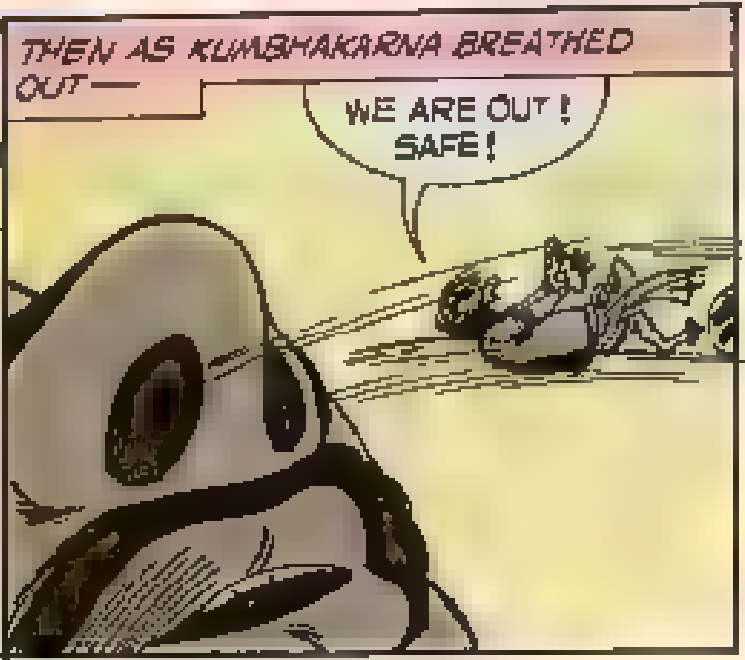
I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING!
WHERE
AM I?

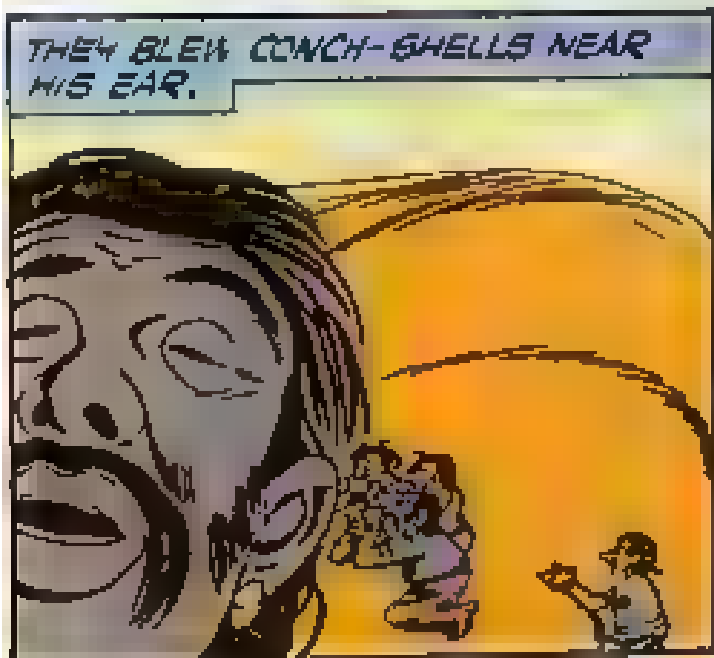
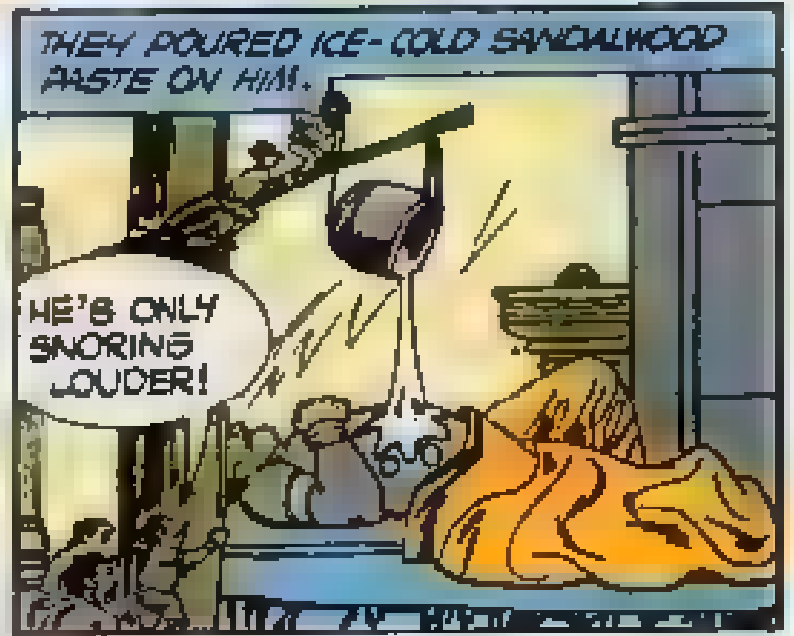
WE ARE IN
KUMBHAKARNA'S
NOSE!



THEN AS KUMBHAKARNA BREATHED
OUT —

WE ARE OUT!
SAFE!



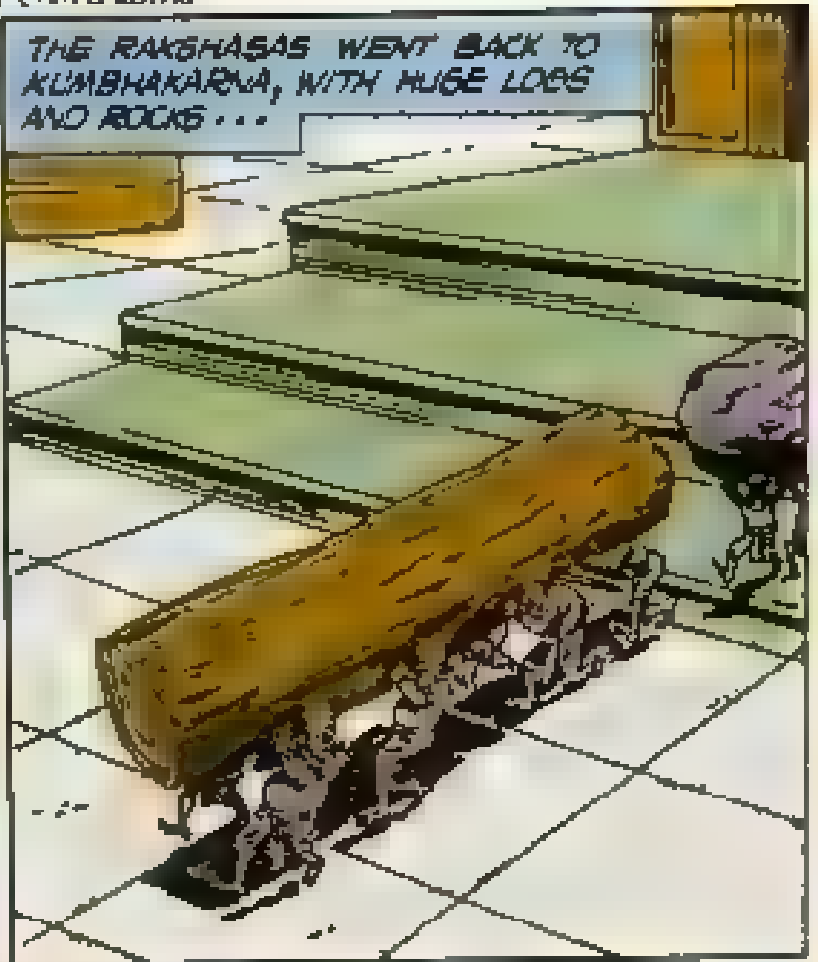


THE RAKSHASAS WENT BACK TO RAVANA.

ALL OUR EFFORTS HAVE FAILED. KUMBHAKARNA IS STILL ASLEEP.

TRY BEATING HIM.

THE RAKSHASAS WENT BACK TO KUMBHAKARNA, WITH HUGE LOGS AND ROCKS...



... WHICH THEY FLUNG AT THE SLEEPING RAKSHASA.



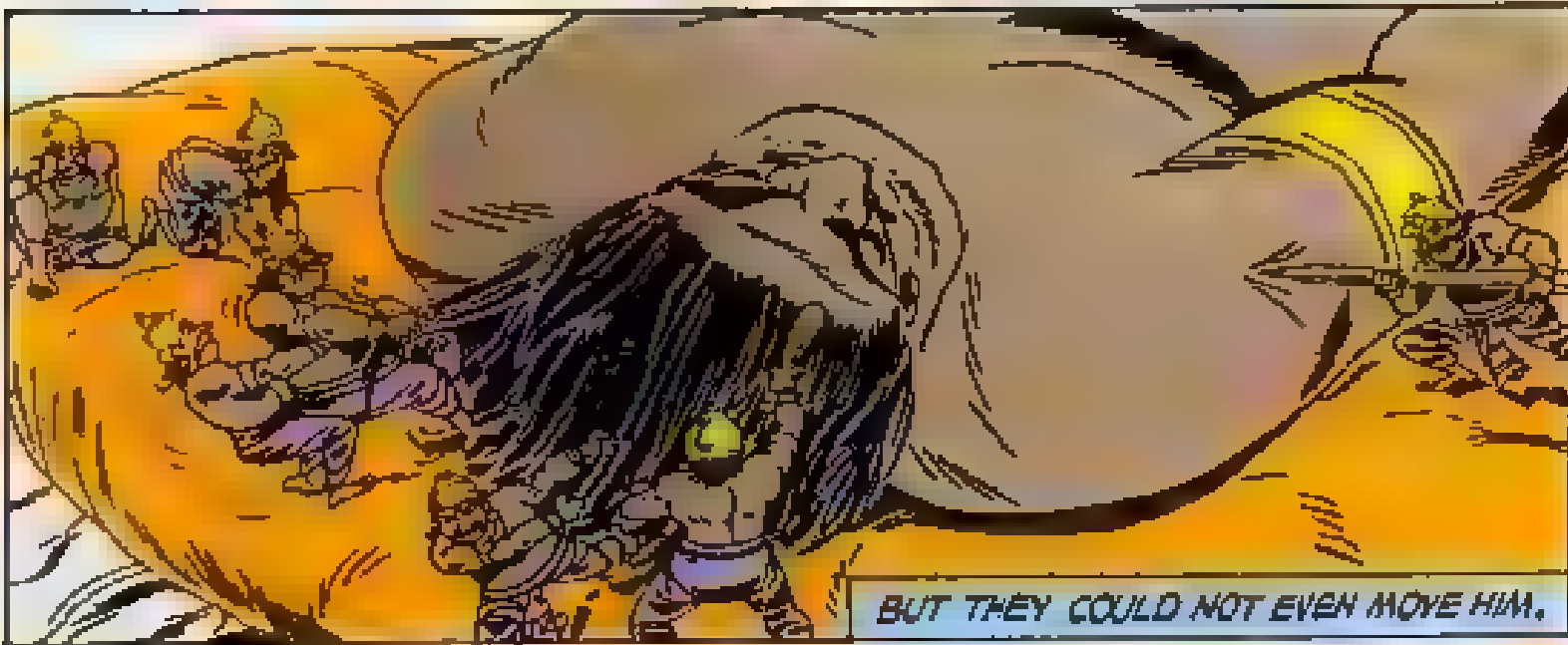
THEN THEY BROUGHT ELEPHANTS AND MADE THEM WALK ON HIM.



HOURS LATER —

THE
ELEPHANTS
ARE TIRED.
THEY NEED
REST.

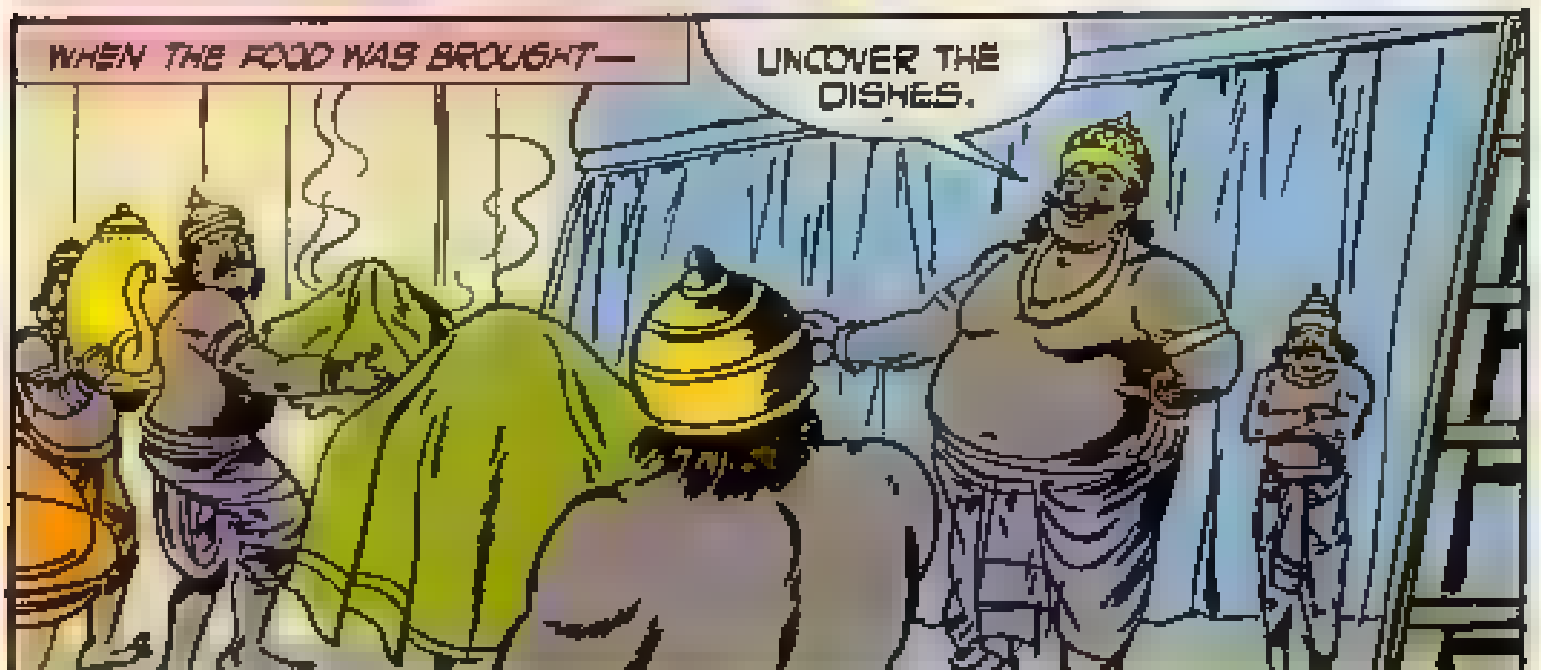
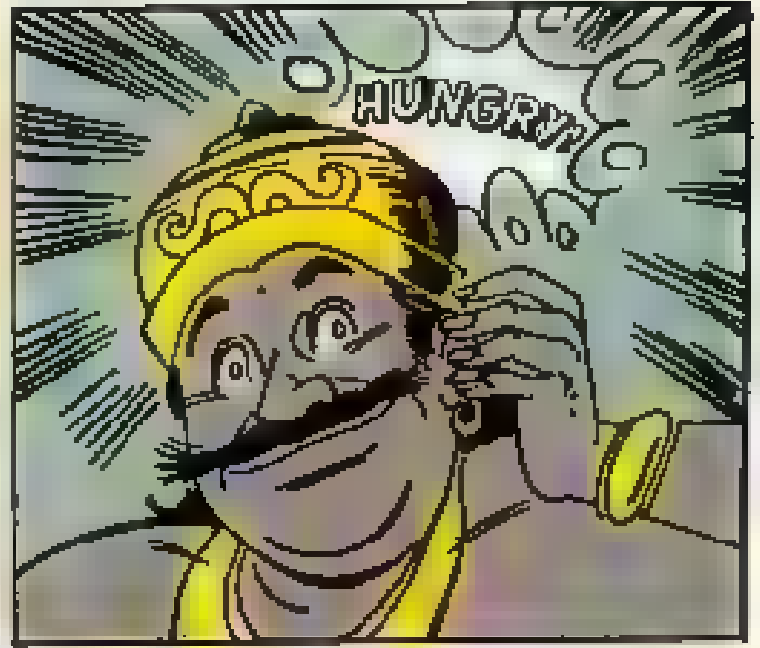
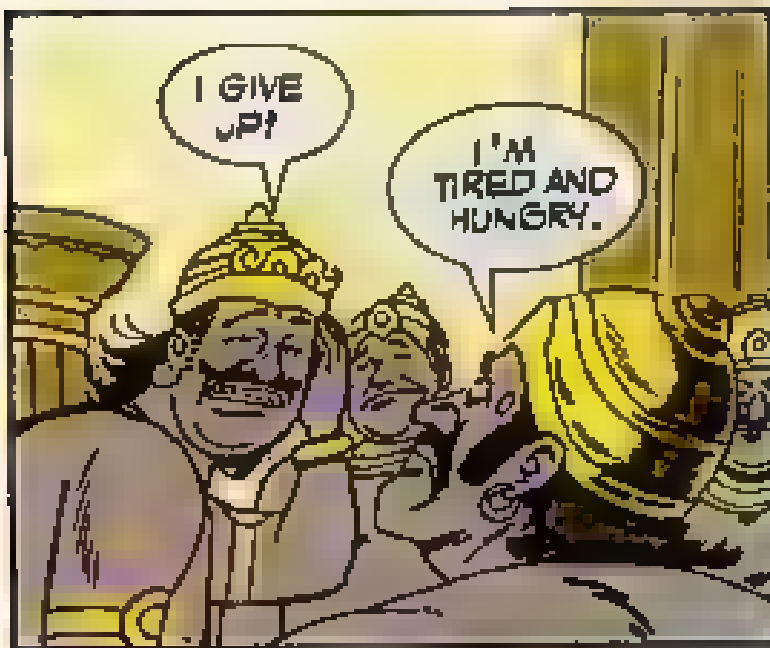
TAKE THEM
AWAY! LET'S
DRAG HIM OUT
OF BED.



BUT THEY COULD NOT EVEN MOVE HIM.

WE'LL HAVE
TO THINK OF
SOMETHING
ELSE.





THE NEXT MOMENT—

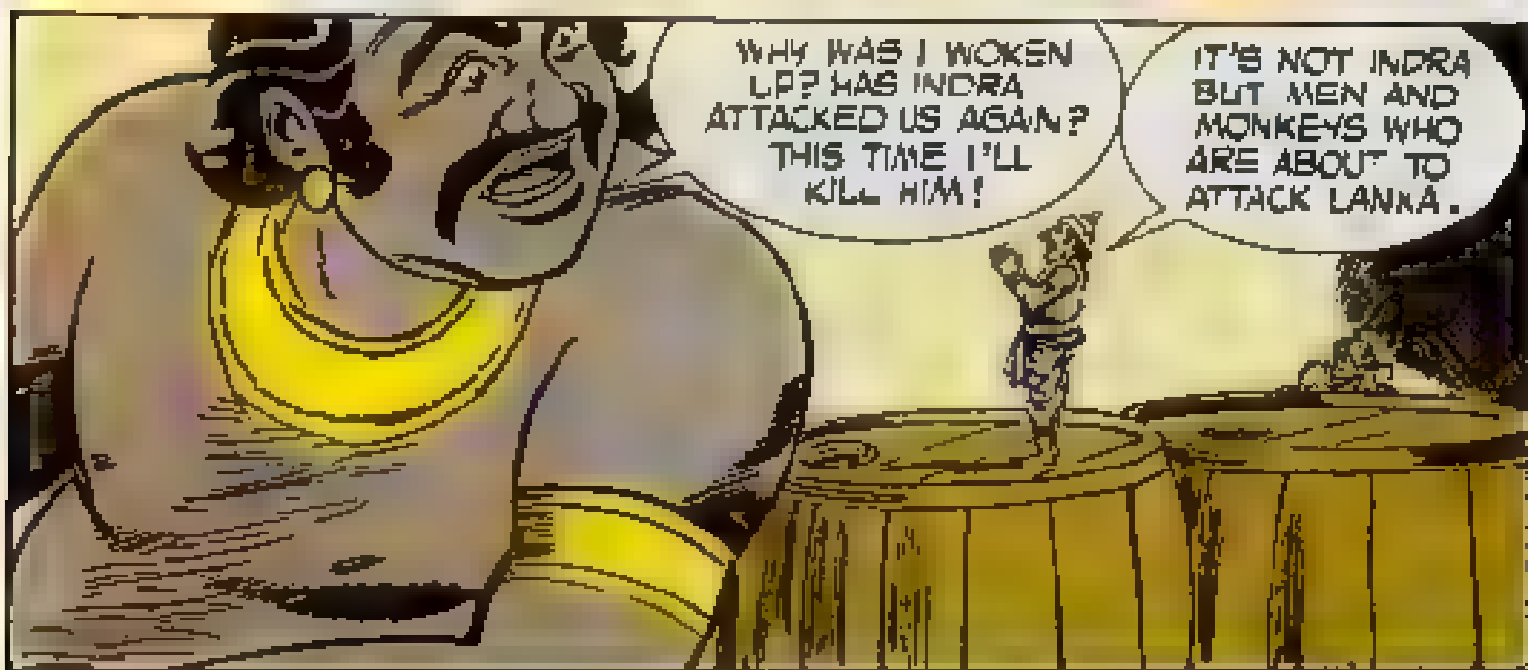
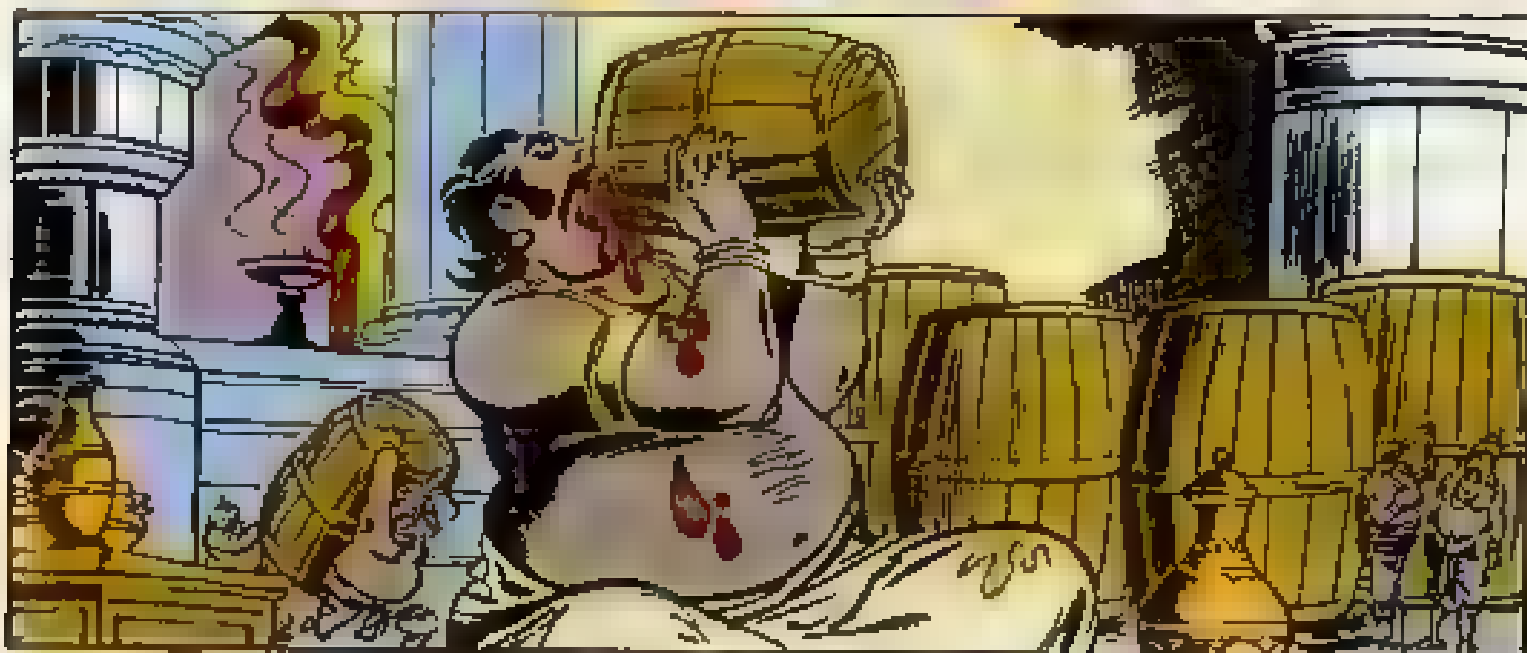
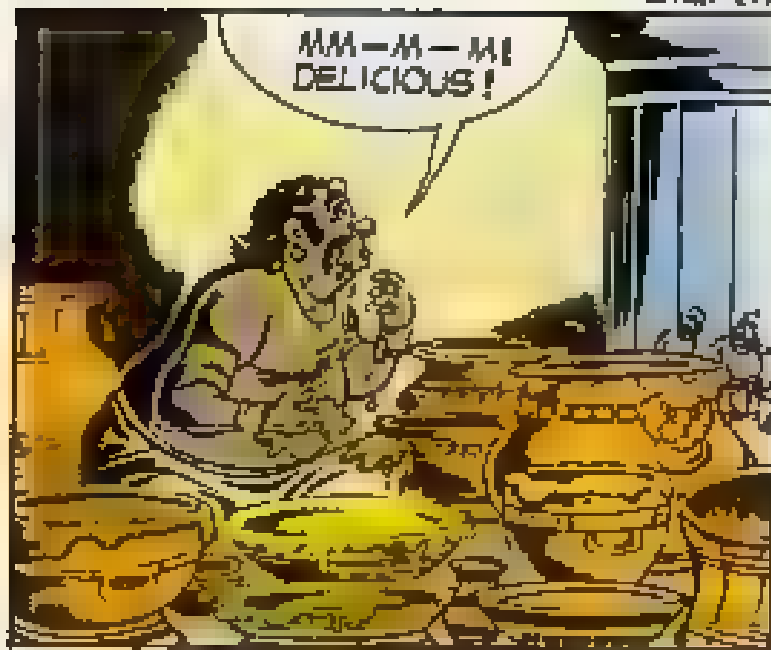
HO? HUM?
YAWN

WHO DARES
DISTURB MY
SLUMBER?

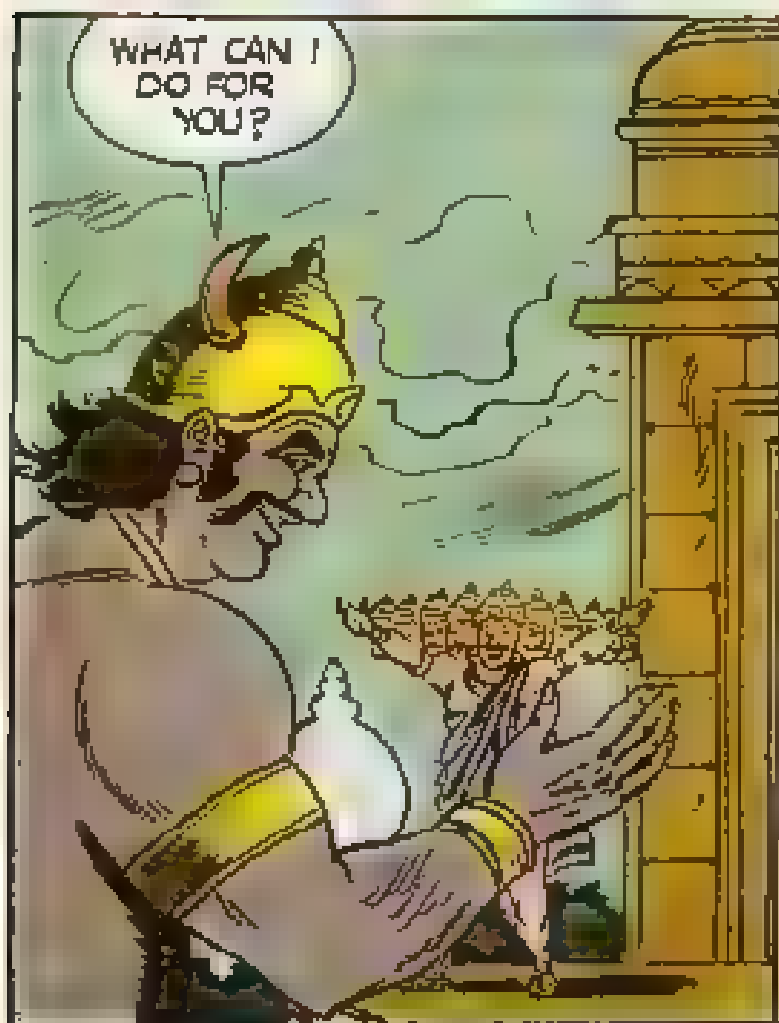
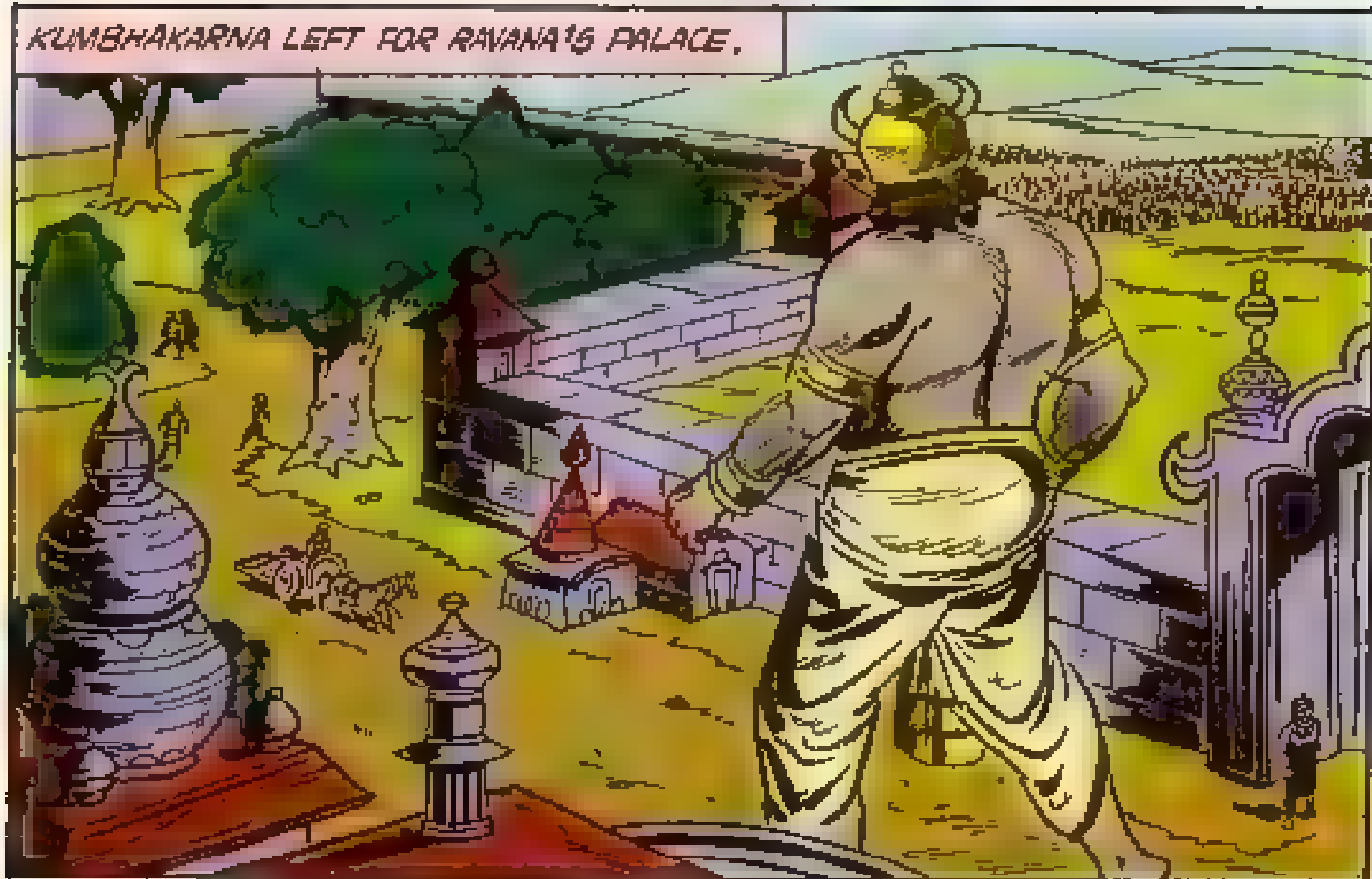
THE LORD OF
LANKA WISHES
TO SEE YOU.

I'M HUNGRY.
I MUST WASH AND
EAT, FIRST.

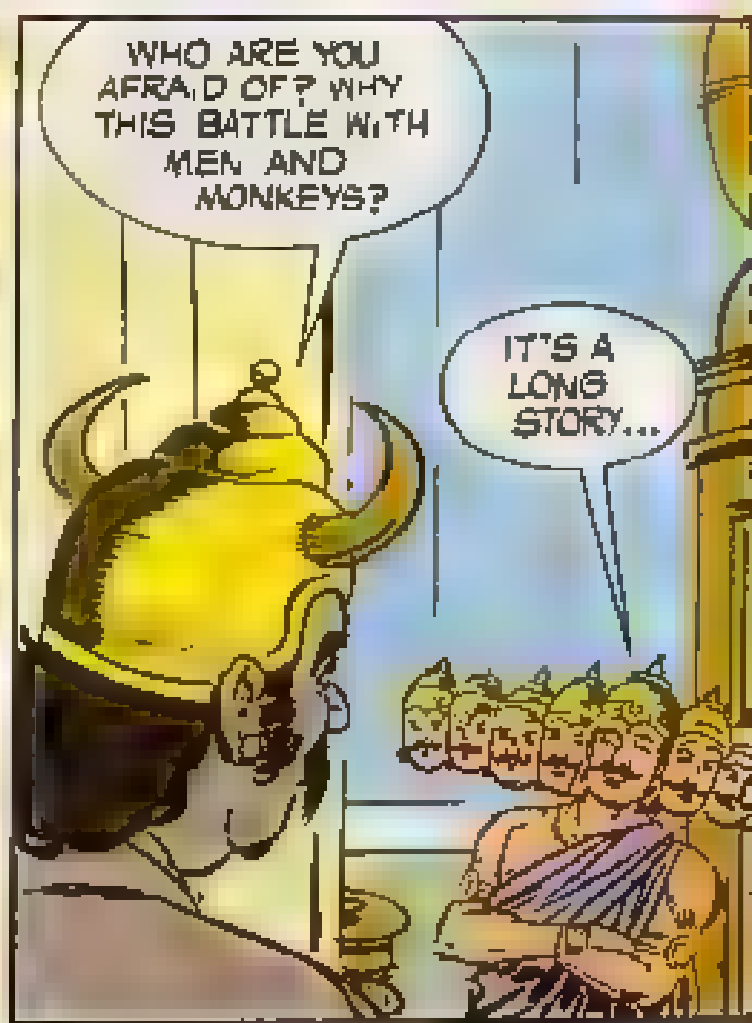
THE RAKSHASAS QUICKLY
GET HUGE PILES OF FOOD
BEFORE HIM.



KUMBHAKARNA LEFT FOR RAVANA'S PALACE.



WHAT CAN I
DO FOR
YOU?



WHO ARE YOU
AFRAID OF? WHY
THIS BATTLE WITH
MEN AND
MONKEYS?

IT'S A
LONG
STORY...

RAYANA TOLD KUMBHAKARNA
ALL ABOUT HIS WAR WITH RAMA.

RAMA SEEMS TO BE A
GREAT MAN. WHAT IF
HE'S LORD VISHNU IN
HUMAN FORM?

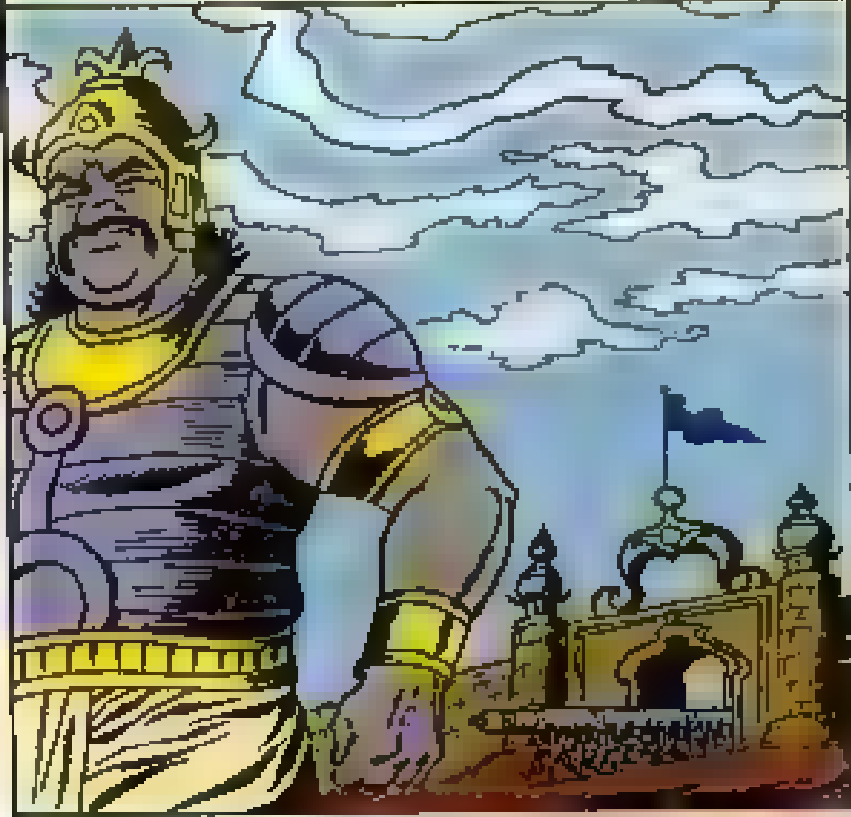
IMPOSSIBLE!
HE'S ONLY A
CUNNING MAN.
HE MUST BE
KILLED.

IT SHALL
BE DONE.
I'LL KILL
OUR
ENEMIES
AND
PROTECT
OUR CITY.

I'VE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
YOU ARE MIGHTY AND
FEARLESS. I'M SURE
YOU'LL SUCCEED.

KUMBHAKARNA
MARCHED ALONE.

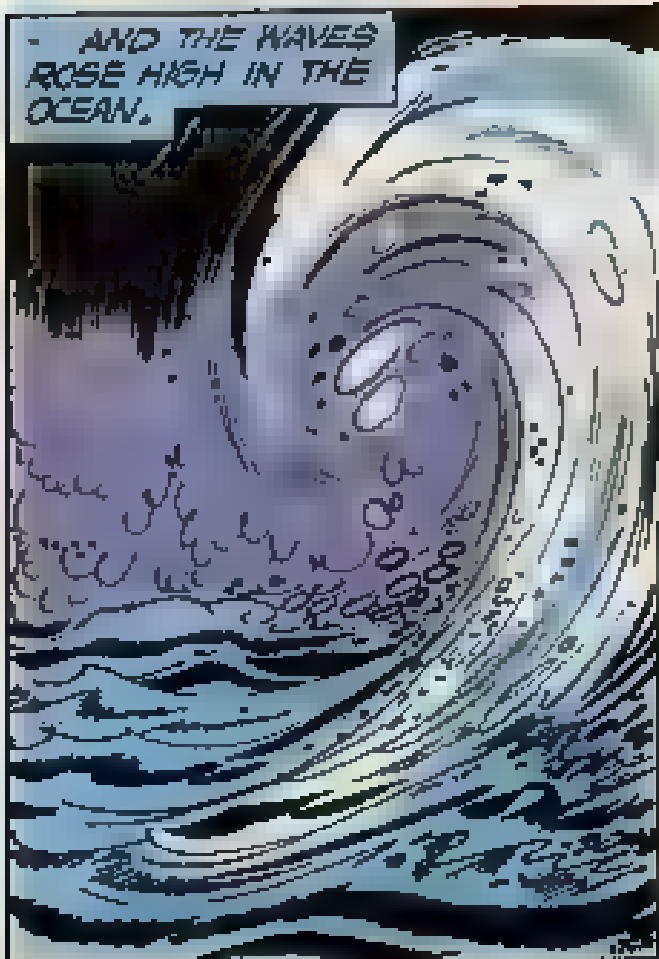
HE WAS FOLLOWED AT A DISTANCE BY TWO THOUSAND SLAVES CARRYING A HEAVY IRON ROD, THE WEAPON OF THE MIGHTY RAKSHASA.



THE EARTH SHOOK UNDER HIM...



AND THE WAVES ROSE HIGH IN THE OCEAN.



THE MONKEY-WARRIORS TREMBLED WITH FEAR

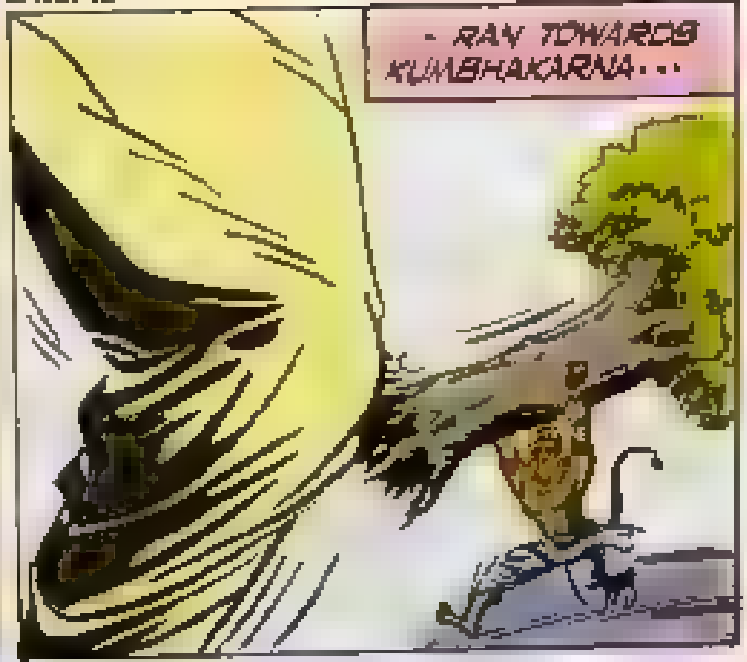
WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THIS GIANT.



NEELA, A MIGHTY
MONKEY, UPROOTED
A HUGE SAL TREE...



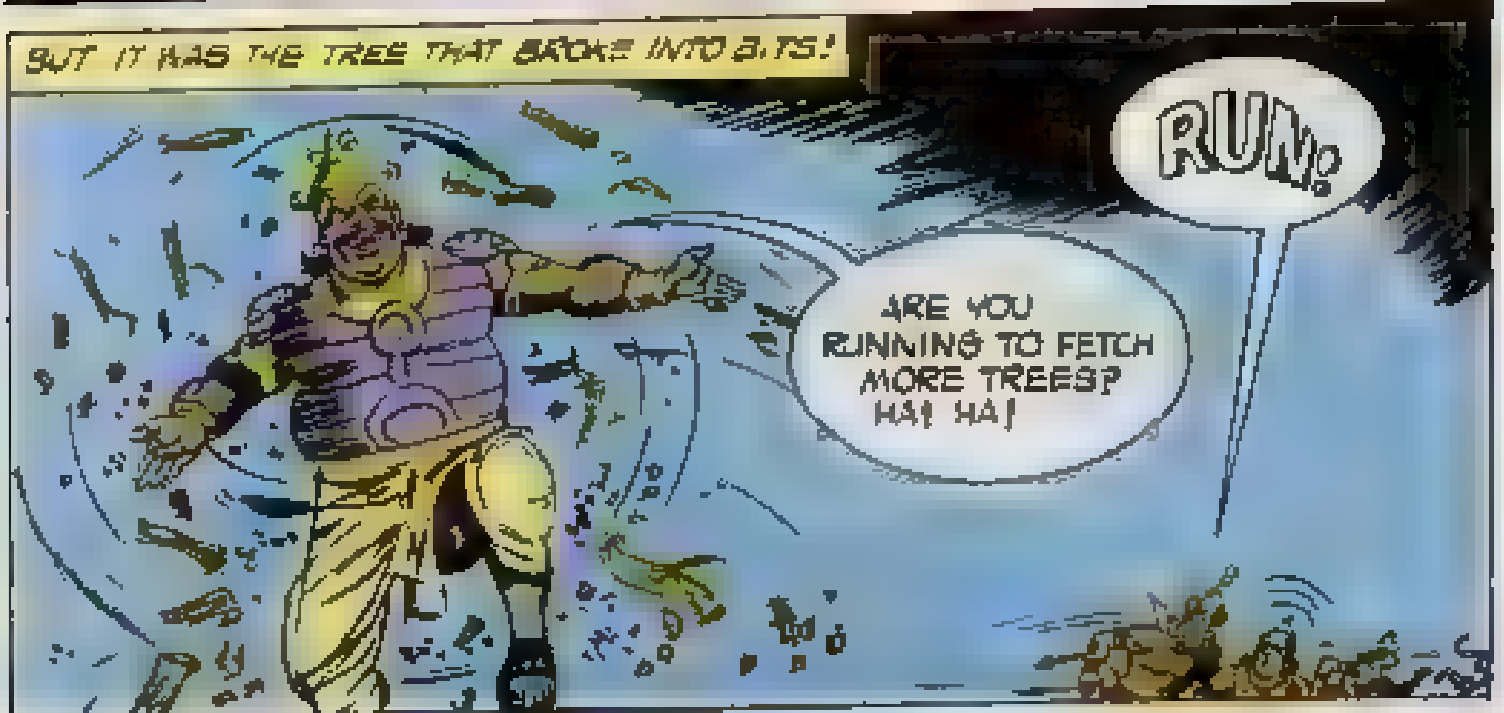
- RAN TOWARDS
KUMBHAKARNA...



... AND HURLED IT AT HIM.



BUT IT WAS THE TREE THAT BROKE INTO BITS!

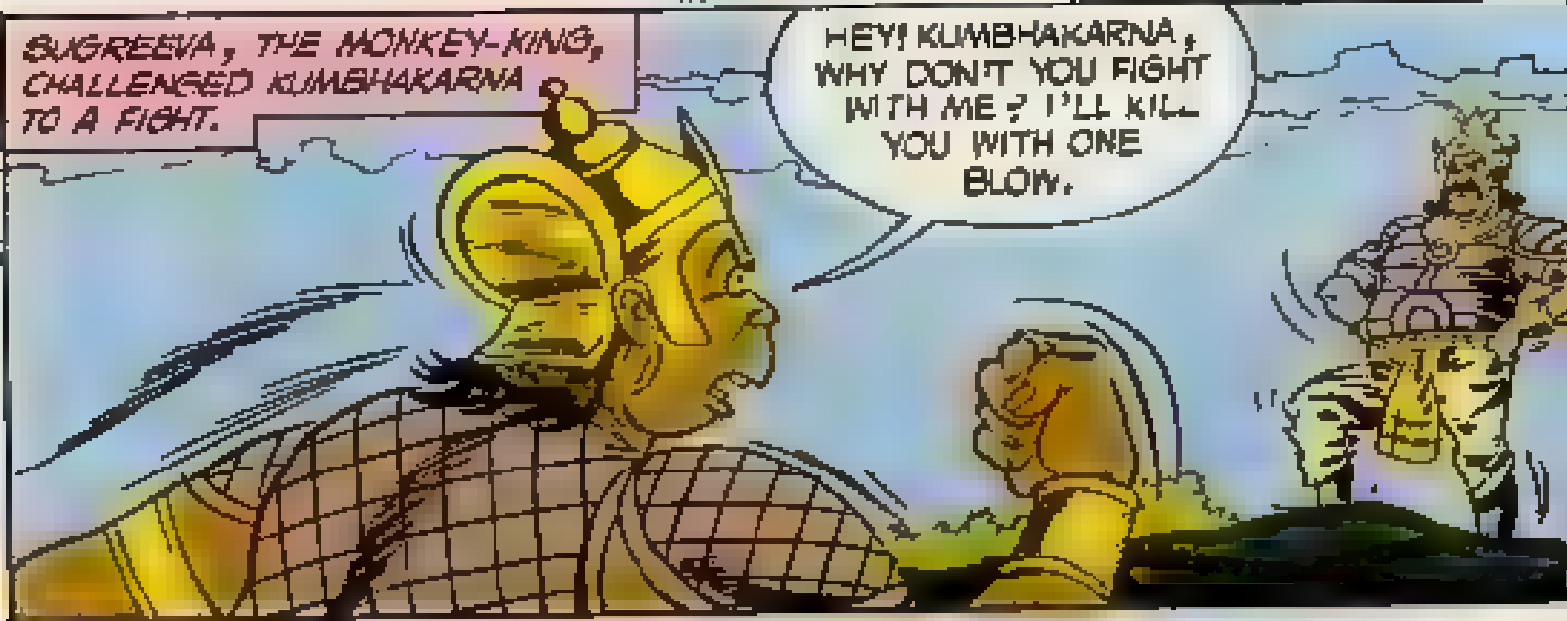


RUN!

ARE YOU
RUNNING TO FETCH
MORE TREES?
HA! HA!

SUGREEVA, THE MONKEY-KING,
CHALLENGED KUMBHAKARNA
TO A FIGHT.

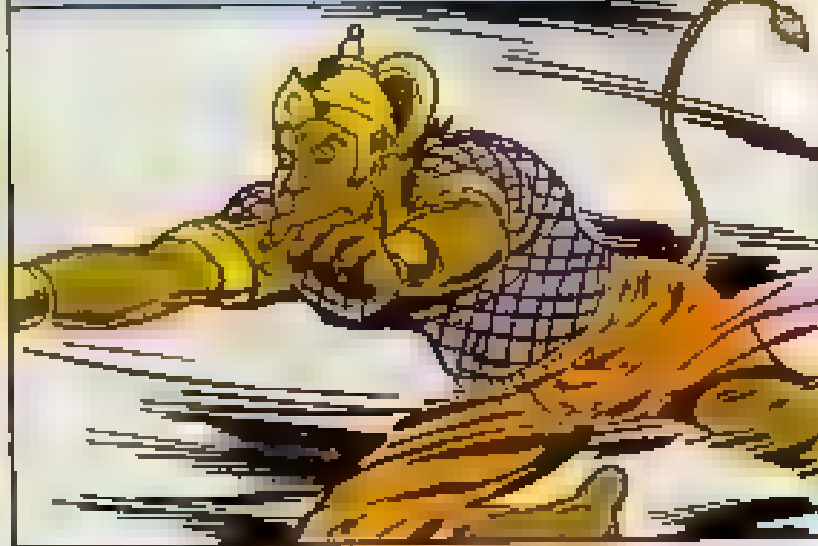
HEY! KUMBHAKARNA,
WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT
WITH ME? I'LL KILL
YOU WITH ONE
BLOW.



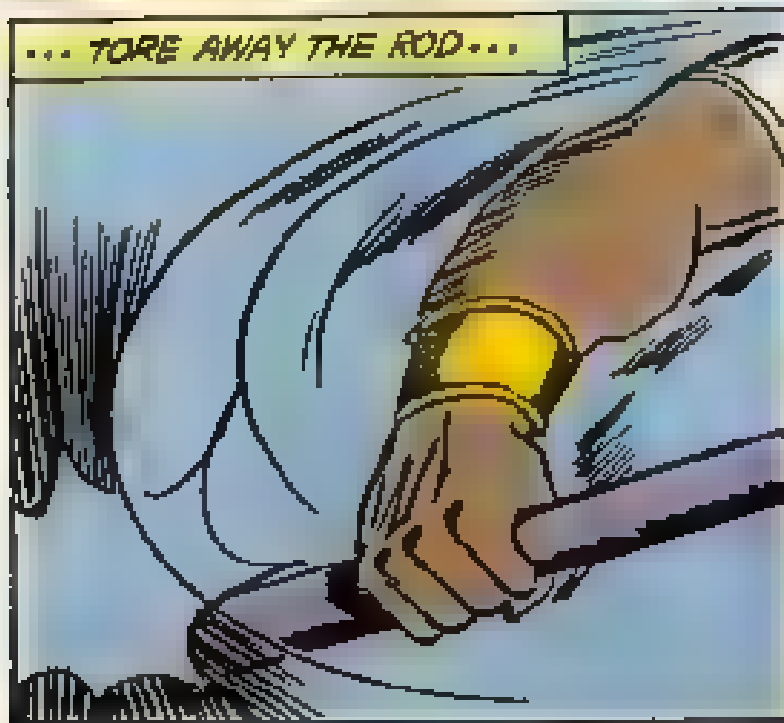
KUMBHAKARNA HELD OUT HIS HAND
FOR THE MIGHTY IRON ROD.



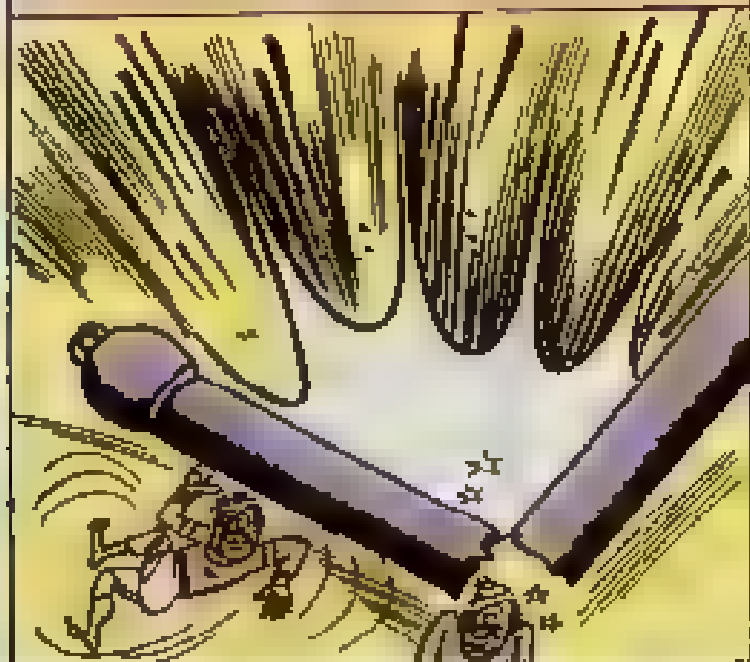
BUT SUGREEVA SPRANG UP...



... TORE AWAY THE ROD...



... AND DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.



THE NEXT MOMENT KUMBHAKARNA PICKED HIM UP...



... AND MARCHED OFF TOWARDS RAVANA'S PALACE.



I'LL
MAKE A GIFT
OF YOU TO
RAVANA.

ALAS!
WE'LL NEVER
SEE HIM
AGAIN.

AS KUMBHAKARNA WALKED THROUGH THE CITY, THE RAKSHASAS MADE FUN OF SUGREEVA.

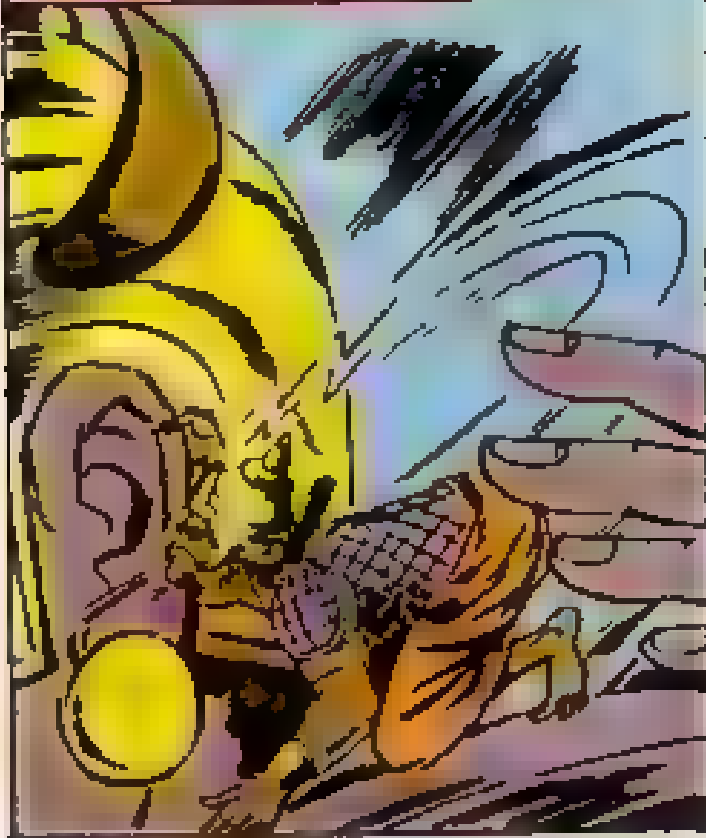


LOOK! LOOK!
THERE GOES THE
KING OF THE
MONKEYS!

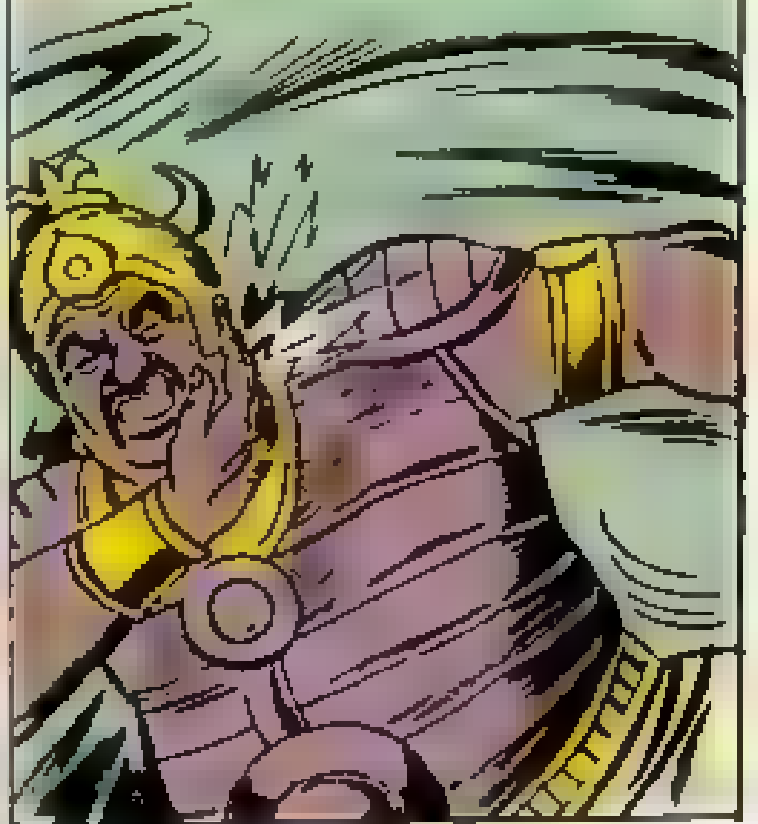


I MUST
SAVE MYSELF
SOMEHOW!

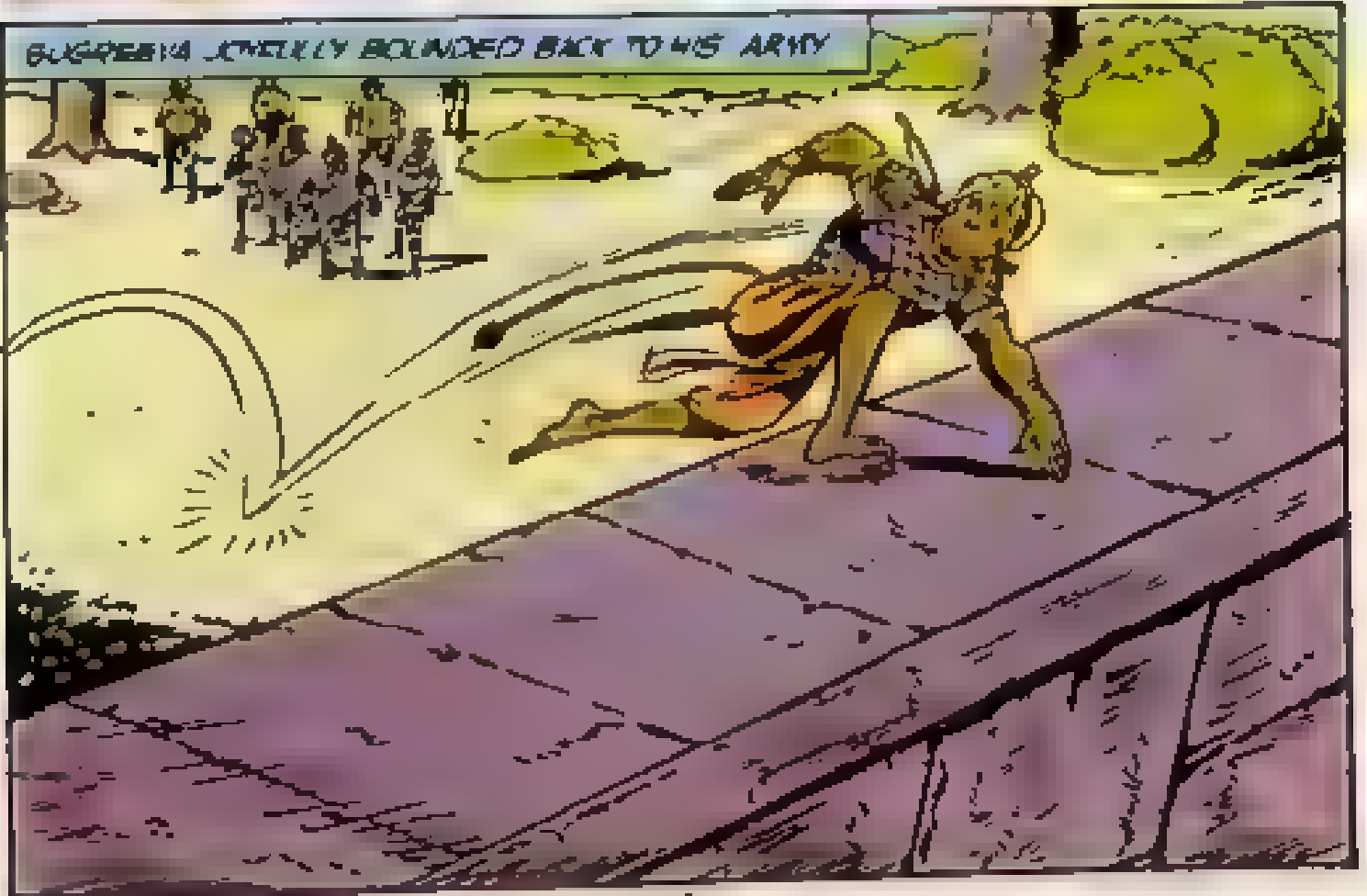
SUDDENLY, SUGREEVA TORE OFF KUMBHAKARNA'S EAR.



KUMBHAKARNA SHRIELED AND FLUNG HIM AWAY



SUGREEVA QUICKLY BOUNDED BACK TO HIS ARMY



KUMBHAKARNA WAS FILLED WITH SHAME.

THE GREAT KUMBHAKARNA
OVERPOWERED BY A MERE
MONKEY! OH, THE
SHAME OF IT!



I SHALL GO BACK
AND DEVOUR EVERY
MONKEY ON THE
BATTLEFIELD.



LOOK,
WHO'S
HERE!

HE STILL
HASN'T
LEARNT HIS
LESSON.



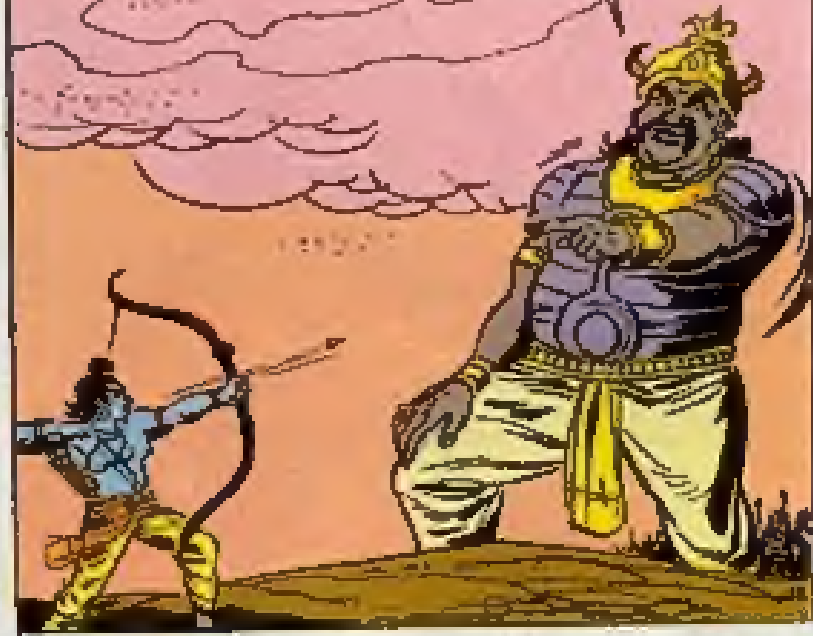
CALL RAMA, OF
WHOM I'VE HEARD
SO MUCH. LET ME
SEE HIM FIGHT.



HERE I AM. USE
ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
AFTER I'VE KILLED
YOU AND RAVANA, I'LL
MAKE VIBHISHANA
KING OF LANKA, TAKE
BITA, AND RETURN
WITH HER TO
AYODHYA.



YOU WILL NEVER
SEE YOUR WIFE AGAIN.
NOR WILL YOU
RETURN TO YOUR
LAND.



RAMA SHOT A DART AT
HIM. BUT—

HA! HA! THAT
TICKLES. NOW
SEE WHAT I
CAN DO!



AND KUMBHAKARNA
RUSHED TOWARDS
RAMA.



RAMA FIXED A SPECIAL ARROW TO
HIS BOW.



THE ARROW FOUND ITS MARK.



AND KUMBHAKARNA FELL DEAD.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED RAVANA—

ALAS! WHY DID I WAKE
UP MY BROTHER IN SPITE
OF THE WARNING?



I WILL AVENGE
HIS DEATH. I'LL
SLAY RAMA.



BUT IN THE BATTLE WITH RAMA, IT WAS RAVANA WHO WAS SLAIN. RAMA MADE
VIBHISHANA THE LORD OF LANKA...



... AND RETURNED TO AYODHYA, HIS CAPITAL, WITH SITA AND LAKSHMANA.



Illustrated Classics From India

Kumbhakarna

Valmiki's Ramayana is believed to be the first poetic work written in Sanskrit. It is therefore referred to as the Adikavya. It is said that Brahma assured Valmiki that, "as long as the mountains stand and the rivers flow, so long shall the Ramayana be read by men."

Valmiki's monumental work caught the fancy of innumerable minds after him and influenced many other great poems, plays and novels written along the same theme. In almost all the Indian languages. Among these are the Hindi, Tamil and Bengali versions of the Ramayana written by Tulskdas in the North, Kamban in the South and Krittivasa in the East.

Our story of Kumbhakarna, the gigantic younger brother of Ravana, the King of Lanka, has been derived from Krittivasa's Ramayana, written over 500 years ago. As a poet of the people, Krittivasa's story was written in simple language replete with delightful metaphors.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Subba Rao & Nandini Das Illustrations: Ram Waserkar Cover: C.M. Vitarner

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